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PATENT

Attorney Docket No. 468268-19/A-65353-8/RFT/RMS/RMK

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

MAYO, *et al.*

Serial No. 09/837,886

Filed: April 18, 2001

For: *Apparatus and Method for  
Automated Protein Design*

Group No. 1637

Examiner: Kim, Young J.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence and enclosures are being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Box Fee Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C.

20231 on:

Date:

November 25, 2002

Signature

Mary M. Farland

Mary McFarland

## RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Box Fee Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

This paper is being submitted in response to the Office Action mailed August 9, 2002. The response is timely filed with a Petition for a One Month Extension of Time and the necessary fees on or before the due date of December 9, 2002. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees, including any extension fees, which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-2319 (Our Order 468268-18/A65353-8/RFT/RMS/RMK).

In the Claims:

Please cancel Claims 2-27, 49 and 50 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please amend the Claims as follows.

29. (Once Amended) A method executed by a computer under the control of a program, said computer including a memory for storing said program, said method comprising the steps of:

- (A) receiving a protein backbone structure with variable residue positions;
- (B) classifying each variable residue position as either a core, surface or boundary residue;
- (C) establishing a group of potential amino acids for each of said variable residue positions, wherein the group of potential amino acids for at least one of said variable residue positions has an amino acid selected from each of at least two different amino acids; and